

NEW YORK'S CURRENT VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS WORK WELL AND DO NOT NEED AMENDING

*Strict voter ID requirements are an attack on one of the core tenets of our democracy:
the right of every eligible American to vote.*

- **Imposing unnecessary strict voter ID requirements would be confusing and expensive**

Instituting strict voter ID requirements would add confusing requirements to poll workers' already complicated Election Day responsibilities. Voter ID requirements are also confusing to voters, whose voting experience we should be streamlining, not complicating.

In order for a strict voter ID requirement to pass legal scrutiny, the state would have to adopt expensive procedures to provide IDs to those who lack them or cannot afford to acquire them. This would place an unnecessary and costly financial burden on the state and counties when election administration is already under-funded.

- **New York State's current voter ID requirement prevents in-person voter fraud**

Election Law Sec. 8-303 sets out appropriate and adequate ID requirements that have consistently worked well in New York. In recent memory, there have been **no** problems with in-person impersonation fraud, the type of fraud that a photo ID requirement can affect, in the state. The few recent instances of election fraud that have occurred here did not involve conduct that would be addressed by an ID requirement at the polls.

Every single court across the country that has examined the issue has found that in-person voter fraud, the kind that a strict voter ID requirement is designed to address, **does not occur with any frequency** and so does not warrant a strict ID requirement. There is no valid reason or need to amend Sec. 8-303 or to add additional voter ID requirements.

- **Strict voter ID requirements disproportionately disenfranchise minorities and young and old voters.**

In court case after court case, the evidence has shown that those without photo ID are disproportionately the youngest and oldest voters and minority voters. Myriad courts have struck down strict voter ID requirements as violating Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act because they make it harder for eligible minority citizens to vote.

A 2014 study by the nonpartisan federal Government Accountability Office found that strict voter ID decreases turnout. With some of the lowest voter turnout rates in the nation, New York cannot afford to make it harder for eligible citizens to vote.

Strict voter ID requirements should not be endorsed by NYSECA.